

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 02298 181250Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAJ-01 MC-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 NIC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /073 W

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R 181225Z DEC 74

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 271

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2298

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, WB

SUBJECT: SENAT REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ISSUE FIREARMS

REFS: A. BONN 19315

B. USBERLIN 2271

C. USBERLIN 2280

1. GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ DISCUSSED PENDING SENAT REQUEST TO ARM CERTAIN JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS AT SOME LENGTH WITH ALLIED COMMANDANTS AND MINISTERS (US POLAD) DECEMBER 16. SCHUETZ SAID THAT FROM HIS STANDPOINT CRUCIAL ISSUE WAS TO PERSUADE JUDGES TO CONTINUE TO DO THEIR JOB. HE DID NOT WANT TO HAVE SITUATION ON HANDS WHERE JUDGES SAID THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE BECAUSE ALLIES WOULD NOT PERMIT THEM TO CARRY FIREARMS AS THEIR COUNTERPARTS WERE ALLOWED TO IN FRG LAENDER. SCHUETZ SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT IF VOTE WERE TAKEN IN SENAT, MAJORITY WOULD OPPOSE SENATOR KORBER'S PROPOSAL: SCHUETZ HIMSELF WAS PERSONALLY UNSYMPATHETIC--"IT WOULD NEVER OCCUR TO ME TO CARRY A PISTOL"-- AS WAS MAYOR NEUBAUER, AND BOTH WERE AWARE THAT POLICE PRESIDENT DID NOT LIKE
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PAGE 02 USBERL 02298 181250Z

IDEA. NEVERTHELESS, HE FELT COMPELLED TO ADVANCE

KORBER'S REQUEST, INASMUCH AS KORBER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR JUDGES.

2. FRENCH MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT HIS MISSION (IN CHAIR) WAS APPROACHED BY JEWELERS ASSOCIATION OVER WEEKEND WHEN ARTICLE ON ARMING OF JUDGES APPEARED IN PRESS (REF C), THUS DEMONSTRATING PROBLEM FACED BY ALLIES, I.E., IF PERMISSION TO CARRY ARMS WERE GRANTED TO JUDGES IT WOULD BE ENTERING WEDGE FOR REQUESTS BY OTHERS SUCH AS JEWELERS, TAXI DRIVERS, MEMBERS OF CONSULATES, ETC. GOVERNING MAYOR SAID HE UNDERSTOOD ALLIED VIEW AND WAS ALSO AWARE THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE MATTERED WHETHER OR NOT DRENKMANN HAD BEEN ARMED, BUT HE WAS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT AFTER DRENKMANN MURDER, MOST JUDGES WANTED TO CARRY ARMS. PERHAPS SITUATION WAS QUIETING DOWN, BUT WHEN SCHUETZ WAS IN STUTTGART TWO WEEKS AGO HE WAS TOLD THAT JUDGES THERE WERE TRYING TO AVOID TAKING ON CASES THAT MIGHT EXPOSE THEM TO RISKS. SCHUETZ SAID HE WAS ANNOYED WITH ARTICLE IN PAPER AND AGREED IT MIGHT BE WISE FOR ALLIES TO TALK SOME MORE WITH SENAT ABOUT ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF INSTILLING CONFIDENCE IN JUDGES. HOWEVER, SCHUETZ NOTED THAT SHOULD ANOTHER JUDGE BE KILLED, HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE ALLIES WOULD BE FREE OF CRITICISM.

3. ALLIES INTERPRETED SCHUETZ'S REMARKS INDICATING HE WOULD UNDERSTAND IF ALLIES RESPONDED NEGATIVELY AND WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM IF DISCUSSION WERE STRUNG OUT SOME MORE, BUT THAT AT SAME TIME ALLIES WOULD HAVE TO BE PREPARED FOR CRITICISM IN EVENT OF FURTHER INCIDENT. IN OUR VIEW, THIS ARGUES ALL THE MORE FOR PURSUING SCENARIO REF A. WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO EXTRACT FROM POLICE CLEAR RECOMMENDATION TO TURN DOWN SENAT REQUEST BUT WE WILL ATTEMPT IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISERS TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL AMMUNITION IN FORM OF POLICE PLANS FOR PROTECTING OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO SOFTEN IMPACT OF ALLIED ANSWER WHEN DELIVERED. SELIGMANN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SMALL ARMS, JUDGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USBERL02298
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740368-0164
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741224/aaaaaugu.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 BONN 19315
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENAT REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ISSUE FIREARMS
TAGS: PINS, WB
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005